

Celebrating Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019...

Saturday, 26 October 2019

Lk 13:1-9

God's Mercy and Patience Are the Source of Our Salvation

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The story about the fig tree is about the patience of God, our need for time to repent and grow in our faith and prayer. The chances and opportunities that the Lord give his children are many. Just like the whole of 12th Chapter of St. Luke, in today's gospel passage we see the time limitedness of human beings. It's only through repentance over our sins that we can be fruitful.

The words of Jesus just invite for our introspection.

"Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered such things?"

"Or those eighteen, on whom the tower in Siloam fell, and killed them; do you think that they were worse offenders than all the men who dwell in Jerusalem? But these questions did not trigger their conscience but they just believed those who suffered these tragedies were worse offenders or sinners. But Jesus then tries to make them aware that it's not because of their worse offence but it's a call for the repentance of the rest, "unless you repent you will perish likewise." Jesus uses the story to drive home the lesson that all of us, without exception, are sinners and in urgent need of repentance.

We all are human beings with a lot of limitations and weaknesses. That is why God is giving us chances after chances. He waits for us patiently. He wants our return with full repentance. The tragedies that we see around us should not make us to condemn it's victims but take it as another chance given to us. God is merciful and patient. But that should not let us exploit his generosity. If we keep on exploiting the generosity of God, our chances would come and end one day and we would be left with no more choice. If that happens we ourselves are to be blamed as we shut ourselves to the everlasting invitation of our loving Father for repentance.

In 2004 four brothers arrived Ghana for their theological studies. They were staying outside the seminary and their incharge was Fr. Jose Mundadan cmi. They had a very faithful and committed cook, a 17 year old boy. After a year Fr. Jose lost some of his money from his room. When discussed it with the brothers, they said to question the cook. But he denied. After several sessions of questioning and threats finally he agreed that it was he who stole the money. When Fr. Jose shared the incident to one of our benefactors who was attending holy mass with us regularly, his response was, "Father don't be shocked. We Ghanians are tempted if we see plenty money together. And even if we steal we don't feel regret."

St. Paul says in Rom 3/23, we all have sinned and all have fallen short of the glory of God. So We all need the necessity of repentance. Let us not judge others and consider us as better than others. Let us thank the Lord for all the privileges and blessings we are bestowed by the Lord and produce the fruits of repentance. This we may become the true children of our merciful and patient Father. Amen.

Published by

CMI General Department of Evangelization and Pastoral Ministry